

AUG 31 1965

A Score for Free Labor

The American Institute of Free Labor Development (AIFLD), part of the Free World's answer to communist subversion in Latin America, is evidently hurting the communist apparatus there.

This is indicated by a vicious attack made on the AIFLD by a newspaper in Santiago, Chile, that is a consistent spokesman for the extreme left and a frequent peddler of the straight communist line.

Beginning two years ago, the AIFLD started establishing training schools for Latin America's free labor leaders. The Institute's first executive director was Serafino Romualdi, longtime AFL-CIO representative for Latin America. Dr. Romualdi is one of the Western World's great pioneers in the modern struggle against totalitarianism of both the right and the left.

The AIFLD is supported by funds from U.S. labor, from U.S. private business and from the U.S. government. Though it is entirely autonomous, its existence is truly an expression of support from the entire American nation for these Latin American workers who do not intend to see their lands fall under the communist yoke.

The Chilean newspaper now charges that the purpose of the AIFLD is to train spies for the U.S. government.

This charge had to come sooner or later, since it is the hackneyed accusation that the communist apparatus always makes against its Free World opponents.

The AIFLD has now joined a distinguished company. Freedom-loving Latin Americans, as well as North Americans who carry their devotion to liberty with them when they go on foreign trips and other missions to Latin America, are accustomed to being subjected to the same attempted smear.

The AIFLD in fact should be congratulated on such an attack coming from such a source. It confirms as nothing else could the effectiveness of its drive that is preparing Latin American workers for battle in the labor arena.

For many years before free labor rallied its international resources to meet communist infiltration in Latin America, the organizers and subversive agents of the communist world

had a great advantage over those Latin Americans who opposed them within the labor movements.

For the communists had the international backing and the international coordination that the democratic workers lacked. The communists trained their labor disciples first of all in organizing techniques and in parliamentary tactics. The communists were taught how a numerically small number of their kind could get control of labor organizations. They were taught to paralyze labor organizations if they could not control them—and to create rival communist-controlled unions to fill a labor void.

The communist labor organizers were given training in doctrines, in tricks of argument and of logic and above all, in sheer loud persistence in hammering home their thesis.

Above all else, a communist labor leader within any given Latin American country had the tremendous psychological assurance that he, personally, was in touch with a great power system that extended throughout the world.

The forces of democratic free labor began to organize internationally in Latin America with the founding in 1949 of the Inter-American Regional Labor Organization (ORIT). The ORIT provided Latin American democratic unionists with the reassurance they had hitherto lacked.

When the AIFLD started its training schools a little over three years ago, it was not their specific purpose to teach Latin Americans how to combat the communist drive tactic for tactic and argument for argument. Rather, the schools' purpose is to train Latin Americans in democratic trade unionism. The training prepares them to take an ever broader and more productive role in the economy and the national life of their respective countries.

One effect of this of course is to make the communists' task much more difficult.

The charge from the pro-communist Chilean newspaper proves that the AIFLD should have all the support it needs to press its advantage. Communism has signaled that it means to continue its attack against the AIFLD and to continue heavily.